(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Declining academic standards at Vishva-Bharati University

1463. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that academic excellence of the Vishva-Bharati University at Shantiniketan is on the decline;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Vishva-Bharati University is infested with a host of vested interests which are proving a drag on its growth and attainment of high standards; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take or are taking to rejuvenate this prestigious institution of learning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) The special programmes of studies and research offered by the Vishva-Bharati University specially by Kala Bhavana and Sangeet Bhavan, continue to attract talented students from all parts of the country and abroad.

Government are not aware about the influence of vested interests proving a drag on the growth and attainment of high standards in Visva-Bharati.

(c) The steps being taken to preserve and enrich the character of the University and to maintain a high level of excellence include:

(i) Attracting meritorious students from different parts of the country and abroad;

(ii) Organisation of a larger number of national and international seminars, conferences and workshops;

(iii) Strengthening of co-curricular activities including cultural functions, community activities, closer relationship and interaction with surrounding areas, etc.;

(iv) Strengthening the Sangeet Bhavana, Kala Bhavana, Rabindra Bhavana, Palli Shiksha Bhavana, Palli Sangathan Vibhaga, etc. and introduction of new programmes in them.

I.I.T. in Assam

1464. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1174 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th August, 1987 and state:

(a) by when Indian Institute of Technology is likely to become operational in Assam; and

(b) what are the various courses of study which this Institute is going to offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) A project team of experts has been constituted and a full-time Project Director appointed to prepare a Detailed Project Report for the proposed Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) to be set up in Assam. It is premature at this stage to indicate precisely when the IIT will become operational and what courses it will offer.

Discovery of Inscriptions on Narsingha Temple of Puri in Orissa

1465. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the inscriptions on the Narsingha temple of Puri in Orissa which remained hidden for centuries under the layers of dust and plaster, have recently been discovered;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite several independent historians volunteering to try to decipher the stone carvings, the archaeological authorities have not allowed them to do so;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to have these inscriptions deciphered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. It is the normal policy of Archaeological Survey of India to grant permission to scholars.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Out of the 58 inscriptions brought to light from the Narsingha temple in the Lord Jagannath temple complex at Puri, 17 have already been published and the remaining 41 are under examination of the Epigraphy Branch of the Archaeological Survey of India for proper decipherment.

रेलवे परियोजनाओं की लागत में वृद्धि

1466. **श्री मोर्जा ईर्शादबेग :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले 10 वर्षों के दौरान कितनी रेलवे परियोजनाएं शुरू की गयी और लम्बित पड़ी हैं, प्रति वर्ष रेल मंत्रालय द्वारा रेल लाइनों को परिवर्तित करने और नयी रेल लाइनें बिछाने के लिए कितनी-कितनी धनराशि की मांग की गयी, और इस मांग को किस सीमा तक पूरा किया गया ;

(ख) इन परियोजनाओं में से प्रत्येक की अनुमानित लागत कितनी-कितनी थी और इन्हें शुरू करने के विलम्ब के कारण इनकी लागत में कितनी-कितनी वृद्धि हुई ;

(ग) ये परियोजनाएं कब तक पूरी हो जाने की संभावना है और इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) क्या रेल मंत्रालय को इन परियोजनाओं को बन्द करने की सलाह दी गयी है यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रेल मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री माधवराव सिंधिया) : (क) और (ख) 1978-79 में अथवा इससे पहले अनुमोदित और जो अभी तक पूरी तरह चालू नहीं हुई है, उन नयी लाइन और आमान परिवर्तन परियोजनाओं के ब्यौरे अनुमोदित और संशोधित लागत के अनुमानों सहित संलग्न विवरण-I में दिये गए हैं (नीचे देखिए) ।

वर्ष 1979-80 के बाद नयी लाइनों के लिए, वार्षिक योजना में मांगी गयी, राशि और योजना आयोग द्वारा अनुमोदित राशि का ब्यौरा विवरण-II (नीचे देखिए) में दिया गया है। तथापि, आमान परिवर्तन योजना शीर्ष लाइन क्षमता निर्माण का एक भाग है । इसलिए आमान परिवर्तन के लिए मांगे गए धन और अनुमोदित धन का अलग-अलग ब्यौरा उपलब्ध नहीं है । इन वर्षों के लिये रेलवे बजट में ऐसे कार्यों के लिये वास्तविक परिव्यय की व्यवस्था का विवरण अनुबंध II में दिया गया है ।